(b) the details of each case, indicating the date on which the same was received by the UGC; and

(c) by when each case is likely to be disposed off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of colleges in low enrolment districts

642. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a plan to set up colleges in 370 districts of the country where enrolment has been low;

(b) the criteria fixed to categorize these districts as having low enrolment;

(c) whether the quality of education would also figure as one of the factors to qualify for the special scheme;

(d) whether special courses would also be taught in such colleges, to make them especially attractive; and

(e) the details of proposals made to build colleges of the highest academic standards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (e) Subject to finalization of the Xlth Plan, it is proposed to encourage State Governments to establish colleges of excellence in districts with lower than the national average of Gross Enrolment Ratio and low density of colleges per lakh of population by providing l/3rd of the estimated capital cost, so as to increase access to higher education of quality and relevance.

Selection of Directors of IIM, Ahmedabad

643. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has pre-selected people for post of Director of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad;

(b) the reasons for bringing in a new system of selecting Director;

(c) the steps taken to ensure autonomy for IIMs;

(d) themeasures prepared to restore harmony between Government and IIMs; and

(e) the steps proposed to improve and expand IIMs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The Directors of Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) arc appointed by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on the basis of recommendation of a Search-cum-Selection Committee constituted for this purpose. In accordance with this procedure, Prof. Samir Kumar Barua has been appointed to the post of Director, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad w.e.f. 08.11.2007.

(b) There has been no change in the established procedure of selection of the Director.

(c) to (d) The Government is committed to autonomy of IIMs. The following measures have already been taken in this regard:—

(i) The power to decide on the fee structure has been restored to the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs).

(ii) The Ministry has introduced the Block Grant Scheme to these institutions to restore their financial autonomy.

(iii) The Board of Governors (BOGs) of IIMs at Ahmedabad, Bangalore & Kolkata which are not dependent on Government grants, are authorized to take appropriate decisions regarding the increase in faculty strength to meet the requirement on account of increased intake in various courses as also for introducing new courses subject to certain conditions.

(iv) The Chairman, BOGs of respective IIMs have also been authorized to grant permission to Director of the Institute for their foreign visit subject to certain conditions.

(e) (i) The Government is committed to maintain the IIMs as centres of excellence.

(ii) Hon'ble Prime Minister in his address to the Nation on the occasion of the 60th Independence Day has, *inter-alia,* announced for setting up of seven new Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs).

(iii) The Government has set up a Review Committee and its one of the terms of reference is to review expansion plans of the IIMs during the next decade, and particularly during the Xlth Plan, with a view to optimal utilization of the existing capacities.

Working of IIMs

644. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to conduct a study on the working of Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the terms of reference of the Committee which has been assigned the task of study on IIMs;

(d) whether Government also propose to bring a Bill to make IIMs answerable to Parliament;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(0 if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The IIM Review Committee **has** been set up comprising of the following:

1. Shri R. C. Bhargava, Former MD, Maruti Udyog Limited — Chairman